

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A terminal devices synchronizing method for synchronizing a plurality of terminal devices interconnected through a network,

the respective terminal devices comprising vertical synchronizing signal generating means for generating vertical synchronizing signals, and control means for making synchronization control operations and data communication, based on the vertical synchronizing signals, respectively, wherein

the respective terminal devices extract the synchronizing signals from either of broadcasting signals, time reference signals and an a.c. power source inputted from the outside other than the respective terminal devices,

the vertical synchronizing signals generating means of the respective terminal devices output the synchronizing signals as vertical synchronizing signals when the synchronizing signals are extracted, but outputting back-up vertical synchronizing signals when the synchronizing signals are not extracted,

the control means of the respective terminal devices making  
synchronization control of operations; and data communication ~~among the respective terminal devices,~~ based on the vertical synchronizing signals or the back-up vertical synchronizing signals.~~synchronizing signals extracted from signals inputted from the outside other than the respective terminal devices.~~

2. (canceled)

3. (original) A terminal devices synchronizing method according to claim 2, wherein

the respective terminal devices make the synchronization control, based on synchronizing signals extracted from broadcasting signals of the same channel.

4. (original) A terminal devices synchronizing method according to claim 3, wherein

when it is difficult to extract the synchronizing signals from the broadcasting signals in one of the respective terminal devices, the channel of the broadcasting signals is changed.

5. (currently amended) A communication system comprising a plurality of terminal devices interconnected through a communication line, wherein

the respective terminal devices make synchronization control by a terminal synchronizing method,

the respective terminal devices comprises vertical synchronizing signal generating means for generating vertical synchronizing signals, and control means for making synchronization control operations and data communication, based on the vertical synchronizing signals, respectively, and wherein

the respective terminal devices extract the synchronizing signals from either of broadcasting signals, time reference signals and an a.c. power source inputted from the outside other than the respective terminal devices,

the vertical synchronizing signals generating means of the respective terminal devices output the synchronizing signals as vertical synchronizing signals when the synchronizing signals are extracted, but outputting back-up vertical synchronizing signals when the synchronizing signals are not extracted,

~~the terminal devices synchronizing method synchronizing the terminal devices interconnected through the communication line,~~

the control means of the respective terminal devices making  
synchronization control of operations, and data communication ~~among the respective terminal devices,~~ based on the vertical synchronizing signals or the back-up vertical synchronizing signals, ~~extracted from signals inputted from the outside other than the respective terminal devices.~~

6. (canceled)

7. (original) A communication system according to claim 6, wherein

wherein the respective terminal devices make the synchronization control, based on synchronizing signals extracted from broadcasting signals of the same channel.

8. (original) A communication system according to claim 7, wherein

when it is difficult to extract the synchronizing signals from the broadcasting signals in one of the respective terminal devices, the channel of the broadcasting signals is changed.

9. (currently amended) A terminal device interconnected to another terminal device through a network,

the terminal device comprising:

vertical synchronizing signal generating means for generating vertical synchronizing signals, ~~from signals inputted from the outside other than the terminal~~

~~device~~; and control means for making synchronization control operations and data communication, based on the synchronizing signals, wherein

the terminal device further comprises synchronizing signal generating means for extracting synchronizing signals from either of broadcasting signals, time reference signals and an a.c. power source inputted from the outside other than the respective terminal devices,

the vertical synchronizing signals generating means output the synchronizing signals as vertical synchronizing signals when the synchronizing signals are extracted, but outputting back-up vertical synchronizing signals when the synchronizing signals are not extracted.

~~control means for making synchronization control operations and data communication, based on the synchronizing signals.~~

10-12. (canceled)